

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF RAYNA LEHMAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rayna Lehman as she retires from her position of community service with the San Mateo County Central Labor Council. Rayna's remarkable 39-year career at the council, and her years of work in labor before joining the central labor council, were labors of love.

It is impossible to fully describe the scope of Rayna Lehman's work in our community since she first joined us in 1970, a young woman with a cat, a guitar and a big smile. In the past 51 years, she became a union painter, led the union, served on the labor council, and filled numerous civic positions including on the San Mateo County Childcare Partnership Council, the First Five Community Steering Committee, a countywide Blue Ribbon Task Force on Healthcare to expand healthcare access, a taskforce to ensure the equitable rollout of the Affordable Care Act, the county planning commission, the state Workforce Investment Board, the countywide school to career partnership committee, and dozens of other positions of leadership leading to improvements in the health, earning power and dignity of San Mateo County residents.

From 1982 to the present, Rayna Lehman served the labor council as the first Community Services Director and Labor Liaison to the United Way Bay Area. It's been a wild ride.

The community services director is an all-encompassing title. Her efforts to fight hunger and deter evictions during recessions were lifelines for thousands. During one recession in the 2000's, Rayna created a program to re-tool union members to work in the emerging biotechnology sector. Time and again, Rayna distributed thousands of bags of groceries to unemployed workers. During the 2020 pandemic, the total reached 22,600 families. If you estimate four persons per family, that's 12 percent of the county's population.

Rayna Lehman is about success for all. She knew that in San Mateo County, both parents need to work. She helped found Palcare, a nonprofit center offering care for children from three months to five years of age 24 hours a day. Palcare focuses on meeting the special needs of workers whose schedules require very early and nighttime work. It's an extraordinary success, affordable by design, and it allows workers to know that their children are safe and offered a quality preschool education while their parents are at work. Rayna served on the board and in other leadership positions at Palcare for many years.

Equal opportunity is the promise of America and a requirement if we are to sustain our democracy. Good jobs in labor begin with apprenticeships. In fact, Rayna was the first female apprentice in Painters District Council 33. In her job with the labor council, she no-

ticed that San Mateo County's union halls were not recruiting enough women or young people from marginalized communities. Rayna began a pre-apprenticeship program that allowed students to improve their math and social skills, and to learn about safety on the job, among many subjects. The program is a wild success, always full, and a pathway to the middle class for hundreds.

In 1982, while I served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, it was my honor to serve with Rayna on the first San Mateo County Advisory Council on Women, later to become the Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose of the council/commission is simple yet profound: To improve the lives of women in San Mateo County. Rayna served from 1982 to 1986 and during that time we held Feminization of Poverty hearings and made many recommendations ultimately leading to change. We also created the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame. In 1990, Rayna was inducted into the hall of fame she helped create.

San Mateo County is a beautiful place but in recent years a troubling undercurrent has emerged. The lack of affordable housing makes life increasingly difficult for tens of thousands. Rayna Lehman has been a strong advocate at city councils for affordable housing and for a livable minimum wage. She cannot help herself—she believes in the dignity of human beings and in the possibility of any honest and caring person to contribute greatly to our nation.

As I close these remarks, let me note the obvious: Rayna Lehman is a loving person. She loves her twin sons Patrick and Benjamin and their spouses Amanda and Kelly. She loves Bill, a truly fortunate husband. In addition, Rayna's expanded family is all of us in San Mateo County. She expresses her love by protecting and celebrating as many as possible.

Rayna is now retiring. The concrete reality of human beings fed, ennobled and celebrated is evidenced in ways large and enduring throughout our county. Farewell Rayna. If that guitar is still around, please strike a chord for justice. Truth be told, you wrote the song.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION TO COMBAT WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the National Commission to Combat Workplace Sexual Harassment Act to establish a national commission to examine and combat sexual harassment in the U.S. workplace.

I have modeled this bill on legislation Congress has passed to address other national

problems considered to be serious, such as gambling. The almost daily exposure of allegations of sexual harassment, including the recent allegations made against New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, more than qualifies sexual harassment for national attention and priority. This bill would create a national commission to focus on sexual harassment in major industries and workplaces throughout the United States.

Congress has adopted legislation that addresses harassment in the congressional workplace. It requires Members of the House and Senate to be personally liable for settlements and awards resulting from harassment and retaliation claims, removes mandatory counseling, mediation and "cooling off" periods for accusers that had been required, mandates publicly reporting awards and settlements and covers unpaid staff as well. These steps move in the right direction beginning where Congress should—right here in the Congress itself. However, nothing equivalent has been done for sexual harassment that affects the American people. We have largely neglected our own constituents, despite the increasing number of troubling reports in the news of sexual harassment claims.

A national commission would assure the American people that Congress takes sexual harassment affecting them—the typical worker—seriously, beyond the high-profile examples, such as allegations against Harvey Weinstein, Jeffrey Epstein, Governor Cuomo and the Congress itself, that have garnered the headlines. Most importantly, the commission would hear from a cross section of the public—from office and factory workers to retail and food service employees—whose experiences with sexual harassment have received almost no national attention. The commission could travel or invite witnesses to Washington from throughout the country to recommend changes in laws or regulations and best practices on preventing, training, investigating, responding to and penalizing sexual harassment in the private and public sectors.

Our constituents expect Congress, which represents every sector, to take on the problem of sexual harassment throughout our national economy, including private and public (Federal, state and local) workplaces. A national commission could help reach and reduce sexual harassment, a form of gender discrimination, where the average American works.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MEGAN BARBERO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary service of Megan Barbero, who served for more

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than two years in the House's Office of General Counsel as a Deputy General Counsel. During her tenure, Ms. Barbero played an integral role in safeguarding the legal interests of the House of Representatives and its Members, Officers, and employees in connection with federal court litigation involving issues of the highest institutional importance. Specifically, Ms. Barbero provided invaluable legal counsel and representation to numerous Committees of the House, greatly assisting them both in fulfilling their constitutionally authorized oversight functions and defending those prerogatives in litigation.

In particular, Ms. Barbero significantly contributed to the development and execution of a complex legal and litigation strategy to protect and defend the authority of the Committees on Oversight and Reform, Judiciary, Financial Services, Ways and Means, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to enforce in federal court compliance with congressional subpoenas for personal and business records of the President, as well as to obtain, by compulsion, official documents and testimony from the White House and other agencies of the Executive Branch. Ms. Barbero's extensive contributions to the drafting of the written briefs and her performance at numerous oral arguments in these cases were demonstrations of the finest legal advocacy.

Additionally, Ms. Barbero provided vital legal counsel to the House regarding both presidential impeachments, and with respect to the defense of longstanding institutional prerogatives, including the House's constitutional authority under the Appropriations and Rule-making Clauses.

Ms. Barbero's work on behalf of the House has been of the highest caliber and I have no doubt that the Securities and Exchange Commission will benefit from her outstanding legal counsel. On behalf of the entire House community, I thank Ms. Barbero for her dedicated service to the House and I wish for her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

RETIREMENT OF RON MILLER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Labor Caucus, I rise today to commend Ron Miller, the Executive Secretary of Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, for his years of service. The Building and Construction Trades Council represents 150,000 skilled construction workers in 14 trades and 48 affiliated unions and district councils. Throughout his time with the council, Ron has helped advocate for workers and fought for education, opportunities, and jobs.

Ron, a 43-year member of the United Association and Pipe trades, rose from the rank-and-file of the building trades. He served as business representatives for UA Plumbers Local 78 and became executive secretary of the Building and Construction Trades Council in 2012. After 9 years of leading the building trades, and 43 years of working for unions, Ron retired on August 1, 2021.

As executive secretary, Ron led negotiations for billions of dollars' worth of project labor

agreements with public and private entities. Through his work, Ron helped guarantee that a skilled and trained workforce from building trades affiliated unions would be on the job. Many of the agreements that Ron worked on renew into 2025 and beyond, ensuring that his work will continue to help workers for years to come.

Ron led the building trades in fighting for change to benefit working people. Throughout his time, Ron helped the building trades in efforts to fund education, affordable housing, and mass transit. Under Ron's leadership, the Council created the nonprofit Apprenticeship Readiness Fund. This fund coordinates more than 15 grassroots programs that facilitate entry to apprenticeship and lifelong trades careers. In doing so, Ron has helped the building trades drive economic equity and guarantee that there are avenues to pass on skills to the next generation.

Although Ron has retired, I am confident that his legacy will live on in the victories that he has fought hard for and delivered on. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have worked with Ron, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AREA COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valiant efforts of the COVID-19 Response Team of the Androscoggin Valley Area of Coos County, New Hampshire. This group was formed in the early days of the pandemic in 2020.

Recognizing that this would take an all-in effort, the team consisted of healthcare professionals, regional social service organizations, community EMTs, educational professionals, and both the state and Federal detention facilities in the area.

While working together, this group was able to rapidly assess the spread of the pandemic and quickly formulate plans to mitigate further transmission. Initially this group concentrated on testing and contact tracing for positive tests. Soon after, local hot spots were quickly determined. Their work to promote quarantine efforts helped to slow the pandemic's progress. This outreach took in local nursing homes, social services, schools, local businesses, and more.

Maintaining social distancing mandates, the team met virtually, almost daily, to assess current county and state statistics and decide on what the next steps would be; all the while waiting on the creation and release of a vaccine.

Throughout the pandemic, this multi-disciplined group of individuals has met every challenge and managed to stay ahead of every curve. While there have been recent spikes in cases, case counts remain below state and national percentages.

It is with pride and my honor to recognize this community-minded group of individuals as heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HONORING OLYMPIAN MADELYN (MADDY) BERNAU OF WATERFORD

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Madelyn (Maddy) Bernau. A native of Waterford, Wisconsin, Maddy competed for Team USA at the 2020 Olympics held this year in Tokyo. Maddy was a member of Team USA's Shooting Team and competed in the women's trap and mixed team trap shooting. At 23 years old, Maddy became the first Wisconsinite to win an Olympic trapshooting medal on July 31, 2021.

Maddy's training, skill, and strong composure helped her secure a bronze medal during the mixed trap shooting competition. Maddy and her teammate Brian Burrows were up against strong competition from the Slovakian team. The match came down to a shoot-off between the Americans and the Slovaks. A miss by the Slovaks gave Maddy the window of opportunity she needed to win the shoot-off. Seizing the opportunity, Maddy pulled the trigger and hit the target, securing the Olympic bronze medal for her team and for America.

Shooting clay targets is something Maddy has been perfecting since the age of 12. At Waterford High School, Maddy was a standout. She would go on to attend Martin Methodist College in Tennessee where she would compete in trap shooting at the collegiate level and earn a degree in biology and biomedical sciences. In June of 2018, Maddy won her first international competition as a member of the USA Shooting Team, securing a gold medal in the women's trap at the International Junior Grand Prix in Porpetto, Italy. In March of 2020, Maddy earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic trap shooting team. Her goal of representing the United States on the Olympic stage would become a reality.

Maddy represented the United States and Southeast Wisconsin with honor. She made both her country and community proud with her composure, talents, and determination. While this is her first Olympic medal, Maddy already has her sights set on the next target, the 2024 Olympics. I know southeast Wisconsin will be backing her 100%.

Maddy's hard work and determination throughout the years led to this historic success. I was proud to watch Maddy represent Wisconsin and the United States on the world stage.

On behalf of Wisconsin's First Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Maddy on her tremendous accomplishment and wish her the best of luck.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 4, THE JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4—the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Growing up in